

83d CONGRESS <i>1st Session</i>	}	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	}	REPORT No. 1049
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STRENGTHENING THE FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE UNITED
STATES BY ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL
USE OF INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS

JULY 30, 1953.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. BENTLEY, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, submitted the
following

REPORT

[To accompany S. J. Res. 96]

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, to whom was referred the joint resolution (S. J. Res. 96) to strengthen the foreign relations of the United States by establishing a Commission on Governmental Use of International Telecommunications, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the joint resolution do pass.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

Senate Joint Resolution 96 provides for the establishment of a Commission on International Telecommunications, consisting of 9 members, 5 to be appointed by the President of the United States, 2 by the President of the Senate, and 2 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Commission is directed to examine and study the subject of international telecommunications and to report and recommend to the Congress agreements, policies, and measures which will encourage the development and effective use of this media in fostering cooperation and mutual understanding among the free nations of the world.

The bill authorizes \$250,000 to carry out the work of the Commission. The Commission may set up a staff of experts and consultants headed by a Secretary General. It is to make a final report by December 31, 1954.

GENERAL PURPOSES

The United States is already linked to the other regions of the world by shortwave and cable. It is now believed feasible from an engineering standpoint to link the United States with the other parts of the world by communications which could be used for television as well

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as other types of instantaneous communications and that would supplement existing facilities. Technicians are presently considering a plan for transatlantic television called NARCOM—North Atlantic Relay Communications System.

The growth of television abroad is no less phenomenal than it is in the United States. More than 50 nations are now developing television networks. It is estimated that about 3 million television sets were in use in 1952.

Television can become an important medium in the overseas information program of the United States. Its impact upon other peoples could be greater than that of the Voice of America. It can serve as an effective instrument of education and supplement the work of our technical assistance experts. Television could become a great stimulus for the growth of international understanding, international trade, and international peace.

The United States has been a leader in the development of television. It is important that it play a similar role in the evolution of international television. Such a position will permit the rational and orderly development of the industry and insure a place for United States information telecasts on the networks of other countries as they come more fully into operation.

The first step is a complete study of the developments in international telecommunications and for an exploration of the problem and prospects for establishing international cooperation in this field. Such a careful analysis will permit the development of policies that should assume adequate safeguards to the United States and contribute to the continued primacy of this country in this field.

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